



Thomas A. Schatz
President

January 9, 2014

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) has introduced H.R. 3589, the Eliminate the Commission to Nowhere Act. This legislation would terminate the Denali Commission, a duplicative regional agency which distributes federal funds to state and local entities in Alaska. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

Congress created the Denali Commission in 1998 to build infrastructure in rural Alaska. President Obama targeted the commission's federal funding for elimination in his fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget. The administration argued that Denali projects are not funded through a competitive or merit-based system. The White House also pointed out that at least 29 other federal programs could fulfill the commission's mandate.

CAGW's *Congressional Pig Book* identified 23 projects worth \$288,313,000 that have been earmarked for the Denali Commission since FY 2000, the vast majority of which were added by the late Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). The commission's statutory authorization expired on October 1, 2009. It is time for the federal appropriation to disappear as well.

Eliminating the Denali Commission is included in CAGW's 2013 *Prime Cuts*, a compendium of 557 spending cut recommendations that would save taxpayers \$580.6 billion in the first year and \$1.8 trillion over five years. Eliminating the Denali Commission would save \$10 million in the first year and \$50 million over five years. I urge you to support Rep. Chabot's legislation and put an end to this wasteful commission. All votes on H.R. 3589 will be among those considered in CCAGW's 2013 *Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,